

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 remain pending in this application. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ofek et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,134). These rejections are traversed as follows.

As mentioned in the previously filed response, according to the present invention, access restriction information of a port of a first storage device is obtained for a second storage device. First, access restriction information is obtained for volumes arranged for each port of the first storage device. Attribute information including the port type and the status of utilization of each port of a second storage device is obtained through a network. On the basis of the attribute information thus obtained, a port of the second storage device is selected for use for access to a volume of the first storage device. Then, on the port selected for access to the volume of the first storage device, access restriction information of the port of the first

storage device corresponding to that volume is set up for the port of the second storage device. This way, the access restriction information can be provided to the port of the second storage device for access to the volume of the first storage device.

For example, Fig. 1B shows an old storage device 105 and a new storage device 110. A storage area 120 of the old storage device 105 can be accessed by the new storage device 110 using the access restriction information obtained from the old storage device 105 (See also Fig. 7, steps S3040 and S0345).

In the Examiner's response to Applicants arguments, the Examiner states that "the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., to obtaining access restriction information for a second storage device from a first storage device having a volume which is to be accessed by the second storage device) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)". Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention so as to clearly define over the cited art. Claim 1 now recites:

a first step for obtaining first access restriction information and information of a volume which are set up on each port of a first storage device, through a second network, said first access restriction information including information of access permission from a first host computer and access denial from a second host computer;

Claim 1 also recites:

a third step for selecting a target port which is utilized for reception of an access request to a volume of said first storage device from said first host computer; and

a fourth step for setting up, on the target port of said second storage device which is selected in said third step, second access restriction information based on said first access restriction information of a port of said first storage device to which a volume, of which the port is utilized for an access, is assigned so that said second host computer may not access said first storage device via said second storage device.

It is submitted that amended claim 1 now clearly recites the obtaining of first access restriction information for each port of a first storage device and setting up second access restriction information on a target port of a second storage device. Reference to "first access restriction information" and "second access restriction information" have been added for purposes of clarity.

The portions of Ofek et al relied upon by the Examiner for allegedly showing the features of the pending claims are simply not supported by the disclosure of Ofek et al. Amendments similar to that made for claim 1 have been made for the remaining independent claims.

As mentioned in the previously filed response, Ofek et al are completely silent with respect to obtaining access restriction information in the manner presently claimed. According to Ofek et al, data migration from an existing (first) storage system 14 to a replacement (second) storage system 16 is disclosed (see Fig. 1). The second storage system 16 includes a map/table 24 which indicates whether or not data requested from a host computer is stored in the first data storage system or in the second data storage system during data migration. Upon receiving a read

request from the host computer, using the data/map table 24, the storage system determines whether to access a volume of the second storage system, if data has been migrated, or access a volume of the first storage system if data has not been migrated (see column 5, lines 45-55 and Fig. 3, steps 101-108). Upon receiving a write request from the host computer, the second storage system uses information from the data/map table 24 to either update a volume in the second storage system, if data has been migrated, or suspend the write request until reading has been completed from the first storage system (see column 5, lines 45-55 and Fig. 3, steps 120-130).

However, as mentioned above, Ofek et al are completely silent with respect to obtaining access restriction information in the manner presently claimed. In particular, Ofek et al are completely silent with respect to the obtaining of first access restriction information for each port of a first storage device and setting up second access restriction information on a target port of a second storage device as presently claimed. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

Applicants request that the Examiner conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution of this application. As such, the

Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time for such interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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